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## Afloat Training Group gets new Commodore

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CFAY Public Affairs

Afloat Training Group Western Pacific got a new commander last Friday, as Capt. David D. Bigelow assumed command from Capt. Andrew G. Sevald in a ceremony held at Yokosuka's Fleet Theater.

The ATGWP crew attended the ceremony, along with VIPs from a number of area commands and representatives of the Japan Maritime Self Defense Force (JMSDF). Commander, Afloat Training Group Pacific, Commodore Ted Serfass served as guest speaker for the change of command.

Capt. Bigelow said he jumped at the chance to command ATGWP. "When the assignment officer asked if I was interested in the job at ATG WESTPAC," the Seattle native said, "the answer was easy: Yes!"

Although he kept his remarks brief, the new C.O. said he was eager to get started in his new job. "I very much look forward to this new opportunity to serve our country and our Navy," he said. "I am at once excited at, and humbled by, the opportunity of serving in command and facing the challenges ahead, in this very important region."

Capt. Bigelow is no stranger to the region; this is his second tour in Japan. From 1993-1995, he was assigned to Battle Force Seventh Fleet (CTF-70), forward deployed to Yokosuka as Bilateral Exercise Planning Officer and Senior Watch Officer. He deployed to the Persian Gulf as part of the *USS Independence* Battle Group, in support of Operation Southern Watch, and acted as Planning Officer for 20 Naval exercises with eight different Pacific Rim and Indian Ocean allies.

"I also look forward to working with the professionals of the Japan Maritime Self Defense Force, in matters of mutual interest," he said. "In my previous tour in Japan, I had several opportunities to work with JMSDF. Those experiences were very rewarding, and I learned a lot. I look forward to working with you." Outgoing ATGWP Commodore, Capt. Sevald, a native of Detroit, Mich., who assumed command on Feb.

4, 2000, said that his tour has been a rewarding one. He credited the success of ATGWP's mission to his crew and the command's strong ties with others.



Capt. Ted Serfass, Commander, Afloat Training Group Pacific, congratulates Capt. Andrew G. Sevald (left) as he is relieved as Commander, Afloat Training Group Western Pacific by Capt. David D. Bigelow (far left). (U.S. Navy photo by PH2 Greg Mitchell, Fleet Imaging Center Pacific)



Capt. Ted Serfass, Commander, Afloat Training Group Pacific (far left), salutes the national ensign during the ATGWP change of command ceremony. Capt. David D. Bigelow relieved Capt. Andrew G. Sevald during the ceremony at the Fleet Theater last Friday. (U.S. Navy photo by PH2 Greg Mitchell, Fleet Imaging Center Pacific)



The sideboys of Afloat Training Group Western Pacific pipe aboard their new Commodore, Capt. David D. Bigelow, as he relieves Capt. Andrew G. Sevald of command of ATGWP during a change of command ceremony at the Fleet Theater last Friday. (U.S. Navy photo by PH3 Lamel J. Hinton, Fleet Imaging Center Pacific)

"I have learned since coming to Japan and to ATG that with people, it is the strength of our relationships that creates excellence," he said. "During my tour here, those relationships were strong and they are of what I am most proud."

Capt. Sevald expressed some regret at leaving the command he helmed for the past 15 months. "ATG, my time with you was too short," he said. "Each of you has had a very personal and very significant role in shaping an organization that achieved a level of excellence that I did not think attainable. As a result I am forever changed and forever grateful."

Although Capt. Sevald is leaving ATGWP, he isn't traveling very far to reach his next duty assignment – that of commanding officer of *USS Blue Ridge* (LCC-19).

## 美術品競売会が横須賀基地で開催

文、写真：安達慶一、CFAY広報課

日本補給科将校協会(SCAJ)と補給将校配偶者協会の協賛による、美術品競売会が横須賀基地司令部で行われ、横須賀基地及び近隣に居住する住民が美術品を鑑賞、購入する場を持った。また、この競売会の利益の一部は、将来を担うSCAJ会員育成の補助に充当されることになる。

「競売会には誰でも参加できます。私たちが調達している基金は、将校から下士官までの家族の奨学金となり、SCAJ会員の誰もがこの競売から恩恵を受けることになります」と競売会の意義を語ったのは、横須賀補給センター(FISC)に所属し、SCAJの会長を務めるマーティン・マシュー少佐。

横田空軍基地の近くにある神田画廊は、今回の競売用に100点ほどの美術品を搬入、競売に先立って美術品の下見と前売りの場を提供

した。競売自体は4時間以上も続いた。競売の成功までには多大な労力が費やされたが、ボランティアの力添えもあり無事に作業を完了できた。

「補給将校配偶者協会を代表して、SCAJが奨学金を集めることに協力することができるのであれば、美術品の紹介、軽食の準備にとどまらず、私たちが手伝うことができることは何でもします」と補給将校配偶者協会の副協会長を務めるアーリング・スモーク婦人は同協会としての後方支援を語った。

1970年代からこの競売会の企画主催者である神田昭氏がオーナーをしている画廊を代表して、在日米海軍司令部の西太平洋地区民間人事及び外国人労務部長を務めるフレデリック・コリンズ氏が競売人を務めた。

「横須賀地域で美術品の競売会が行われるのは初めてだと思います。ですから、この競売会の参加者が少ないのは当然ですし、美術品の

価値を熟知している人たちも少なかったのではないのでしょうか。神田氏は何事にも寛大な方です。今回の競売会では、参加者の皆さんには非常にお買い得だったと思いますし、皆さん競売の進行と共に熱狂し、競売自体を楽しみ、時間の経過と共に美術品競売のどくなつたといった私の目には写りました」とコリンズ氏は競売会を回想しながらコメントした。

コリンズ氏は競売人を務めるのはボランティア活動の一環であると言い、「競売人としては何の報酬も受けていません。競売会はいくまでも慈善活動として行われるので、この基金調達プログラムのために私ができることのひとつです」と続けた。



Volunteer auctioneer Fredric Collins keeps track of bidders as kimono-clad Sullivan's Elementary substitute teacher Merrie Collieran displays one of the pieces for sale during the art auction.

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マーティン少佐によると、SCAJは毎年この競売会を年間の恒例行事としたいとのことだ。